

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): T. ONO, et al  
Serial No.: (not yet assigned)  
Filed: January 12, 2004  
For: A SURFACE PROCESSING METHOD OF A SPECIMEN AND  
SURFACE PROCESSING APPARATUS OF THE SPECIMEN

**REAFFIRMATION OF CLAIM FOR PRIORITY**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 12, 2004

Sir:

Under the provisions of 35 USC §119 and 37 CFR §1.55, Applicants hereby claim the right of priority based on Japanese Patent Application Nos. 10-256926, filed in Japan on September 10, 1998 and 10-258599, filed in Japan on September 11, 1998.

The certified copies of the above-referred to Japanese Patent Applications were filed on January 5, 2000 in prior application Serial No. 09/393,893, filed September 10, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,



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